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JAMES H. McKENNEY,
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In the Supreme Court of the United States.

OCTOBER TERM, 1901.

THE UNITED STATES, APPELLANT,
v.
WILLIAM T. SAMPSON, REAR-ADMIRAL, U. S. NAVY, etc. } No. 273

THE UNITED STATES, APPELLANT,
v.
GEORGE DEWEY, ADMIRAL U. S. NAVY, ETC., and Edwin F. Stovell, captain, etc., intervenor. } No. 309

GEORGE DEWEY, ADMIRAL U. S. NAVY, ETC.,
v.
THE "DON JUAN DE AUSTRIA," "ISLA DE CUBA," "Isla de Luzon," etc., and Edwin F. Stovell, captain, etc., intervenor. } No. 310

EDWIN F. STOVELL, CAPTAIN, ETC., INTERVENOR, appellant,
v.
GEORGE DEWEY, ADMIRAL U. S. NAVY, ETC., and the "Don Juan de Austria," "Isla de Cuba," "Isla de Luzon," etc. } No. 311

APPEALS FROM THE SUPREME COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

MOTION TO ADVANCE.

In the Supreme Court of the United States.

OCTOBER TERM, 1901.

THE UNITED STATES, APPELLANT, *v.* WILLIAM T. SAMPSON, REAR-ADMIRAL, U. S. Navy, etc.	No. 597.
THE UNITED STATES, APPELLANT, *v.* GEORGE DEWEY, ADMIRAL U. S. NAVY, ETC., and Edwin F. Stovell, captain, etc., intervenor.	No. 654.
GEORGE DEWEY, ADMIRAL U. S. NAVY, ETC., *v.* THE "DON JUAN DE AUSTRIA," "ISLA DE Cuba," "Isla de Luzon," etc., and Edwin F. Stovell, captain, etc., intervenor.	No. 655.
EDWIN F. STOVELL, CAPTAIN, ETC., INTERvenor, appellant, *v.* GEORGE DEWEY, ADMIRAL U. S. NAVY, ETC., and the "Don Juan de Austria," "Isla de Cuba," "Isla de Luzon," etc.	No. 656.

APPEALS FROM THE SUPREME COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

MOTION TO ADVANCE.

Now comes the Solicitor-General, in behalf of the United States, with the concurrence of all the counsel representing the various parties to the above-entitled

causes, and moves the court to advance these causes upon the docket, and to set them down to be heard together at as early a date as may suit the convenience of the court, for the following reasons:

(1) The above appeals have been taken from decrees of the supreme court of the District of Columbia, holding a special term as a district court of the United States, entered July 31, 1901, and November 5, 1901, respectively, in the respective prize causes of *William T. Sampson, rear-admiral, U. S. Navy, etc.*, v. *The Spanish vessel of war "Infanta Maria Teresa," etc.*, and of *George Dewey, Admiral U. S. Navy, etc.*, v. *The Spanish vessel of war "Don Juan de Austria," etc.* The questions of law involved in the appeals of the *United States* v. *Sampson*, No. 597, and *The United States* v. *Dewey*, No. 654, are practically the same, while the case of *Dewey* v. *The "Don Juan de Austria," etc.*, No. 655, is practically a cross appeal, relating to certain other legal questions not involved in the Sampson case. The case of *Edwin F. Stovell, intervenor*, v. *George Dewey, etc.*, No. 656, concerns the right of certain parties to share in the fund to be distributed.

(2) All these appeals relate to property alleged to have been captured at the battles of Manila Bay and off Santiago nearly four years ago. The delay in reaching this court has been inevitable, owing to the character of the causes and the amount of evidence which had to be procured, but it has been none the less a hardship to the officers and men concerned to have their claims for prize money remain so long un-

settled. This is especially true in the Dewey case, where it is conceded that a portion of the prize money claimed should in any event be recovered.

(3) Owing to the fact that the term of service of enlisted men in the Navy is comparatively short, and that those who leave the service rarely remain in any one place, but make voyages all over the world in pursuance of their calling, it is difficult for the Navy Department to keep track of them, so that delay in the adjustment of claims for prize money increases the work of the Department, and sometimes even makes it impossible to find the men to whom prize money is due, or their representatives in case of their death.

(4) The amount involved herein is between $1,500,000 and $2,000,000, and those directly interested in its distribution number between 3,000 and 4,000 persons.

(5) The cases are of general public interest.

JOHN K. RICHARDS,
Solicitor-General.

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